

# *Marines*

February 1998

Official Magazine of the Marine Corps



CONCRETE  
JUNGLES

# Still digging for your Copy ?

Staff Sgt. David J. Ferrier



**MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES:** Contact the Directives Control Point (normally in the Adjutant's Office) to request your unit's Publications Listing (PL) (PCN 400000000200) be increased by the appropriate number of copies (1 copy per 5 Marines).

**NON-MARINE CORPS ACTIVITIES:** Request an individual activity code (IAC) from: Commandant of the Marine Corps (ARDE), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, DC 20380-1775. The letter should contain a complete mailing address, point of contact, phone number, *Marines* PCN and number of copies required.

**PERSONAL/CIVILIAN SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Request your one-year subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Domestic: \$22.00, foreign: \$27.50 per year.



# Courage in the Corps



Pfc. James Anderson



Pfc. Oscar P. Austin.



Pfc. Ralph H. Johnson.



Pfc. Robert H. Jenkins.



Sgt. Rodney M. Davis

## They Gallantly Gave Their Lives ...

By Fred Carr  
HQMC, Washington

**A**s the Marine Corps joins the nation in the observance of Black History Month 1988, we pause to remember especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

Five African-American Marines have been awarded the Medal of Honor — all of them posthumously for gallant and heroic action in Vietnam.

In February 1967, Pfc. James Anderson Jr. and his unit, 2nd Platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines were advancing through dense jungle to extract a heavily besieged reconnaissance patrol. The platoon found itself under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire only 20 meters from the enemy position.

When an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the Marines and rolled along side Anderson's head, he reached out, grasped the grenade, pulled it to his chest and curled around it, absorbing the major force of the explosion.

Later that year, in September 1967,

Sgt. Rodney M. Davis and his platoon were pinned down by a numerically superior force. Disregarding his own safety, Davis moved through the enemy fire shouting words of encouragement to his Marines while firing and throwing grenades at the enemy.

When an enemy grenade landed in the midst of his men, he instantly threw himself upon the device, taking the full force of the explosion.

Private First Class Ralph H. Johnson gave his life on March 5, 1968, while serving as a member of a 15-man reconnaissance patrol which was attacked by a platoon-sized force using automatic weapons, satchel charges, and hand grenades.

When a grenade landed in his three-man fighting hole, Johnson shouted a warning to his two comrades and hurled himself on the device, dying instantly.

Nearly a year later, on Feb. 23, 1969, Pfc. Oscar P. Austin's observation post was fiercely attacked by a large North Vietnamese Army force. When he saw a fellow Marine wounded and unconscious in a dangerously exposed position, Austin raced across the fire-swept terrain

in a rescue attempt.

As he neared the fallen Marine, a grenade landed nearby. Austin leaped between the injured Marine and the grenade, absorbing the detonation. Ignoring severe and painful injuries, he turned to examine the other wounded Marine when he saw an enemy soldier aiming at his unconscious companion. Austin threw himself between the casualty and the enemy and was mortally wounded.

A few days later, on March 5, 1969, Pfc. Robert H. Jenkins Jr.'s 12-man reconnaissance team was assaulted by an NVA platoon employing mortars, automatic weapons, and grenades.

Jenkins and another Marine moved into a two-man fighting emplacement and were returning fire when a hand grenade landed in their position. Jenkins pushed his comrade away from the grenade and threw his body on top of him to shield him from the explosion. He was seriously injured and succumbed to his wounds.

These were Marines for whom Honor, Courage, and Commitment were ideals worthy of dying for.

Semper Fi! □

---

*The Marine Corps Values Program is designed to instill, reinforce, and sustain in every Marine our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment — from the rank of general down to the newest recruits and officer candidates. These values are the very ethos of our character, which must be burned into the souls of all who wear the eagle, globe, and anchor. It is every Marine's responsibility to teach these values to their junior Marines by their impeccable example and to show society by the same. "Courage in the Corps" portrays Marines who have displayed our core values by their distinguished actions in combat and in peace, those who have laid their lives on the line for the success of the mission, and those who contribute in other ways but go unnoticed.*



## Range Sweep!

Sgt. Billy Montgomery, 13th MEU(SOC) Human Intelligence Exploitation Team Interrogator-Translator, uses his secondary language – Arabic – to speak with a Bedouin shepherd during daily range sweeps of Exercise Eager Mace 98-1 in Kuwait. Montgomery alerts Kuwaiti locals of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps training taking place during the exercise.

—Photo by Cpl. Mike Wentzel